

Touchstone

Surrey
Earth
Mysteries



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THE SOLAR TRANSITION EFFECT

When on holiday in Youlgreave in Derbyshire in August, 1991, I found by dowsing that there was a ley running up the garden path of our cottage and through the hallway and kitchen. (It was about six paces wide - the width of most leys. Wider ones seem to be a rarity).

There seemed nothing unusual in this finding - it is a strange fact that we always seem to be subconsciously sited in cottages that happen to be on leys. (Yes, it is ourselves in these cases that seem to be subconsciously sited - we get all our cottages from the Church Times, who would no doubt be horrified!)

On the Tuesday evening, however, I noticed particularly strong head-hum while walking down the path to the car to get something from it. On checking with the rods, I found the ley had grown to double its width! I noticed that the sun was just setting, and also that the church bells were ringing, so I felt that one or both could be the cause of the effect. I dowsed the ley continually for a while, and found that the line resumed its normal size after about twenty-five minutes.

The next day at sunset, when the bells were not ringing, I tested the line again, and found the effect repeated - it was clearly the sun that was responsible and not the bells. At the same time I tested another line, a ten-pace alignment from the church which ran along the bottom of the garden. This became twenty paces during the sunset period. I was most excited - do all leys double in size at sunset? And what about sunrise?

Testing both leys at sunrise gave exactly the same result - and for about the same length of time. It seemed to be an effect of the sun's rays passing horizontally across the energy lines.

On arriving home at Addlestone, I tested a ley there - the six-pace-wide midsummer sunrise line through St. Augustine's Church and our house. Like the Derbyshire lines, it doubled in width, becoming twelve paces wide at sunrise and sunset, and for about the same time again.

At this point I thought of the E-line the Surrey Earth Mysteries Group has been following on the Pitch Hill project, discovered by Eileen Grimshaw and Gordon Millington in November 1990 as a very wide dowsable band of energy crossing Pitch Hill in Hurt Wood, Surrey. The line is usually about 100 paces wide, unique in our experience, and probably a great rarity in actuality. Eileen found at Avebury that even the famed St. Michael Line cannot match it, despite the fact that it, unlike the other ley, does not pass through a lot of well-known prehistoric sites (although it is a good ley napwise).

Surely this line could not double? At the earliest opportunity I could arrange, my wife Doris kindly took me to South Holmwood Church, the most convenient point on the E-line to test the effect. This was on Sunday, 8th September. We arrived just before the time I had come to call "the sunset window", and I found the line to be its normal width. Then, quite suddenly, it expanded to a staggering 212 paces! A geomantic corridor indeed! I did not ask Doris to stay for the whole hour, but I have no doubt reduction happened at the normal time.

On 13th September I was sent by my employers, the Surrey TVEI Unit, to a multimedia conference at the University of Edinburgh (its Riccarton campus a few miles out of the city). By dowsing I found three leys passing near the Leonard Horner Hall where I was staying. One went slightly obliquely through the end of the building; another almost at right angles to it, skirted the edge of the small lake rather flamboyantly called Riccarton Loch (I did not notice a monster!) The third goes through a large stone which I came to call the Home Stone.

There are many stones placed ornamentally around the campus, but this one attracted me particularly, being in a small clump of silver birch and also being particularly large. A plaque on it announces that it was excavated from the playing field site in 1969 and later that year unveiled by no less a person than Sir Alec Douglas-Home (chancellor of the university) to commemorate the gift of the Riccarton site to the university by Midlothian Council!

Yet despite its recent erection, a ley seems to pass through it to three smaller stones strategically placed on the corner of the road near the playing fields, which were obviously excavated from the hillside (they now form two terraces). Dare I hope that it also passes through the spot where the large stone was found?

All three of these leys were tested at sunrise, and all three increased in size from six to twelve paces. The sunrise window was slightly longer, however - by about ten minutes. This is not unexpected as the angle of sunrise would be more oblique as the location is further north.

On this occasion I tested the effect by standing just outside the narrow width of the ley. It was quite an experience when, suddenly, the rods crossed without me moving! The opposite happened at the end of the window - the rods suddenly uncrossed.

The other lines grew and shrank at the same time (as far as I could judge, as obviously it took a few minutes to walk between them). The dawn chorus of the birds happened at the beginning of the window, but only seemed to continue until just before sunrise (except for the odd twitter now and again).

The sunrise/sunset effect would seem to be one of great importance. It must be like a great standing pulse following the terminator as it rushes westwards round the Earth. There can never be a time when this ever-moving great circle is not stimulating leys to activity somewhere on the planet.

THE HOG'S BACK BARROW

by Chris Hall

The destruction of ancient monuments is a pastime attributed to farmers of the present century and, more recently, to planners of new motorways and the like. I recently came across a much older account, of how a large barrow situated high on the Hog's Back, between Guildford and Farnham, was destroyed in the year 1817.

We must thank the Rev. C. Kerry for putting on record the former existence of this monument, which he recorded as being 17 yards in diameter at the base. It was situated high on the chalk ridge, above the western extremity of Puttenham village, close to the highway.

The 'highway' is now the A31, a busy dual carriageway. Early editions of the O/S 1:25000 sheet mark 'site of tumulus' at SU 92624823, but this detail does not appear on versions available now.

The Rev. Kerry records:

'The winter of 1817 was very severe and many of the labourers were thrown out of

employment. It was therefore resolved by the ratepayers for the sake of affording relief to these men that the mound should be removed and the soil carted into the fields on the hillside. Stones were laid on the roads. The soil was carted into Great Down Field on Mr. Hewitt's farm.'

Human remains were found, including a jaw bone which was taken to the smithy in Puttenham. There were pottery fragments and iron work, including one resembling a type of shield. The Rev. Kerry records that many years later, in 1869, he dug into the remains of the barrow, and found a human bone.

His record of its former condition refers to 'the usual cavity at the summit', which suggests it had already been dug into before the desecration of 1817, presumably by treasure seekers. What became of the various bones and grave goods is not recorded; they were perhaps kept by villagers until their interest faded.

An interpretation of the site is thus ambiguous. The archaeologist L. V. Grinsell, writing in 1963, suggests a pagan Saxon interment with shield, and either a Saxon pot, or a Bronze Age vessel from an earlier burial. The question remains unresolved in the recent (1987) survey of Surrey archaeology (reviewed in *Touchstone* 27).

The position of the barrow was high up the ridge, just below the highest ground, a position commonly favoured by Bronze Age peoples. It faced south; from it the north was effectively screened by the bulk of the Hog's Back. There is still a barrow lower down the slope, by Puttenham golf course, and another (unlocalised and long destroyed) also close to Puttenham. The parish church is medieval. On the north side of the Hog's Back is Wanborough, site of a sacred Iron Age enclosure, Romano-Celtic temple and sacred spring. The name Wanborough derives from Old English/Saxon words meaning 'a swelling' and 'hill', possibly referring to a topographical feature or, equally likely, another barrow.

The vicinity is clearly rich in prehistory, and had some great significance. More is the pity that destruction of one of its parts was justified (as is so frequently so today) on grounds of employment. There is no record of whether any misfortune fell upon Hewitt's Farm, or those who carried out the work.

References:

The Reverend Kerry's original manuscript is apparently at Derby museum. The barrow is marked on O/S 1:25000 maps (sheet SU94) from surveys dated 1913 to 1934.

Surrey Archaeological Collections, Vol. 60, p.84.

The Archaeology of Surrey, edited by Joanna Bird and D. G. Bird, 1987.

BOOK REVIEWS

The Place Names of Hampshire, by Richard Coates. 190pp. Published by Batsford, £14. 95 hardback.

Place names provide one of the many sources of knowledge (if interpreted cautiously) in the field of earth mysteries studies. Alfred Watkins himself believed the names of places concealed clues to the direction and uses of the old straight track, though it must be added his etymology is sometimes fanciful.

Modern names are contrived, borrowed, invented or applied for no greater reason than we like them. But there was a time when names had power, and places were named from a quality, a character or an experience which was uniquely theirs. Often they had poetry: 'meadows among the ferns by the meandering stream' (Farnham); 'the low wooded ridge by the place of kingfishers' (Isenhurst).

The name of a place is a breath of its distant history reaching across time to us, though to understand that whisper we must forget our 20th century conceptions and remember what the land was to the people who first gave voice to that name.

Any new book of place names can thus be a helpful reference to understanding the land of old. Hampshire has not yet seen a comprehensive study from the English Place Names Society; nor is one due for at least a decade. (Surrey was published in 1934, but needs a revised edition now).

This more general book, listing all the towns and most villages, is a welcome preliminary work. Rivers and major landscape features (like Alice Holt Forest, on the Surrey border) are also included, but minor names of fields and copses (often very relevant to ley research) are beyond its scope.

The book has a short introductory section about place-name interpretation and the earlier languages of these islands, but most of its pages are devoted to a dictionary of Hampshire places, giving a selection of the early spellings and a discussion of possible meanings. The flaw is that the compiler has clearly relied mostly on map work for his interpretations, a necessary concession given publishers' deadlines, but no substitute for field work, where a minor topographical feature can provide the insight no map ever will.

It is worth emphasising, for researchers who may not have considered placenames before, that all too frequently modern spellings are corrupt, false friends which misled Watkins and which will trip up the unwary.

Thus Odiham had nothing to do with Odin, as has sometimes been stated. The name has lost an initial 'w' since medieval times. It was 'the village in the woodland'. It is tempting to associate Wimbomborough with a now lost earthwork, but the earliest spelling (late Saxon) is *weargeburnan*, a river name (burn, bourne). The River Whitewater flows through the village.

Chris Hall

The Elements of Earth Mysteries, by Philip Heselton, published by Element Books, £4.99.

This book, by someone who has been in the Earth Mysteries field from its beginning in the early 1960s, fills a much needed role as one explaining the subject to those not familiar with it but who will hopefully in some cases become interested. Beginning with the holistic vision of the world from space, which he feels spurred people to be more Earth-conscious, he goes back further in time to the 1920s when sites of remote antiquity were first seen to have a linear relationship. From here he goes on to describe how, as the years progressed, this base was built upon in many different directions, drawing in strands from many disciplines to bring awareness of other facets of the Earth's existence and how our lives can be enriched by a deeper relationship with it. This book is highly recommended for those within the Earth Mysteries movement as well as those being introduced to it for the first time.

The Search for the Omphalos, by Bob Trubshaw and John Walbridge. Published by Heart of Albion Press, £1.50.

This booklet is subtitled "finding the mystical middle of England", but in fact it is not about any one unique place, but the concept of a central, sacred spot that seems to have been universal to most peoples of the world. The author shows clearly from the English examples that these are usually nodal points of some kind - meeting points of parishes made special by being "ex-parochial", or cross-roads with all the significance of "no-place" that has been attached to them as burial places of suicides, places of execution or sites of courts or meetings of the people. They are focal points for the locality and represent the still point about which the world turns. Few of them could claim to be the geographical centre of England, however - perhaps of the major points described, High Cross in Leicestershire is the best contender for this. But this is really irrelevant, for, as Black Elk, the Sioux medicine man, is reported in the introduction to have said, "the central mountain is everywhere". No conclusive evidence is put forward that any of the omphali was universally regarded as having greater status than the others - rather they seem to have been a network of equals.

LETTERS

from Chris Street, London.

Thanks for the copy of *The Hidden Unity*. I had a quick flick through it as soon as it arrived and ended up reading it from cover to cover. It's a very important concept in the understanding of the Earth Mysteries jigsaw.

By some strange coincidence, I've just found an interesting alignment through a mosque, the one in Regent's Park. It is part of seven pointed star pattern around London which will feature in the next *Earthstars* book. Some of the points on this bit of it are St. John The Baptist, St. John's Wood; Regent's park Mosque; near miss for the Royal Academy of Music; The centre of the *Earthstars* temple - Brock House, Great Portland St - formerly St. Pauls chapel (demolished 1905); London Poly, Little Titchfield St annex; All Saints', Margaret Street (a most potent site if you're ever in the area); Synagogue in Chapone St; Church in Charing Cross Rd, now the Limelight night club; Schiller International University, South Bank; St. Andrews Ch, Ufford St, SE1; Baptist Ch, Borough Rd.; Geoffrey Chaucer School. There's also a second alignment via St. Mary Le Bone to St. Martin in the Fields, which takes in St. Marylebone Sec School and near misses the Harley St. Clinic. North of the mosque it takes in a church in St. John's Wood and another in Cricklewood. There are an astonishing number of hospitals and schools on the *Earthstars* alignments, too. These energies are very much concerned with healing and learning, one way or another.

from Mike Ayton, Alton, Hampshire.

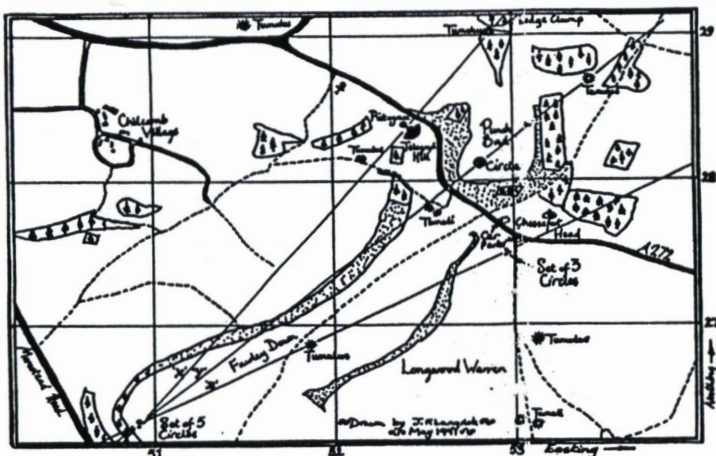
The circles in Hampshire have been relatively disappointing this year with very few in our area - only one or two small plain style circles. None have occurred in the same fields as last year but often in fields nearby. The energy pulses from these fields are interestingly reversed compared to those from last year. Also there have been some oddities.

Night observation however brought several sightings of coloured light phenomena over three fields, but no circles formed in them. Predominately blue and red, they were like delicate puffballs the size of large "gone to seed" dandelion heads. The glow was soft and diffuse seen with the naked eye at fifty yards or so. They were not torches and did not move in straight lines but acted like a will o' the wisp in a bobbing and floating motion. There was no mist or precipitation, in all but one case the weather being clear and balmy. On that one occasion it was raining heavily but the light form was unaffected - maybe slightly brighter - except that its coloration was different, a pale green changing to purple before fading rather than popping into disappearance like the others.

NOTES AND NEWS

Aligned circles

The Circular, vol. 2 no. 2, of the Centre for Crop Circle Studies, gives interesting details of alignments of recently found crop circles in the Cheesefoot Head area with tumuli. Three alignments were pictured, converging on a group of five crop circles on Fawley Down.



No knowledge of Horsell Stone

On enquiring of the Surrey County Archaeologist about any details of the standing stone on Horsell Common, he said he had no information on it and it would be impossible to date unless it was associated with other dateable features.

Sailor stone

At a talk given to the Addlestone Historical Society recently, Mr. John Janoway gave some interesting further information on the Sailor Stone at Hindhead, which we visited on a field trip a few months ago. It was erected to the memory of a sailor who had been murdered there on his way to Portsmouth; however, it was moved by the turnpike trust to the side of the new stretch of road opened in 1826. The local people were so upset that they put another stone on the site. This had disappeared by 1889, however, and in 1932 the original stone was moved back to the original site. The strong subconscious need for a stone on that location suggests that the Sailor Stone itself may not have been the first stone there.

This would have gladdened Alfred Watkins' heart...

As a trader and ley hunter Alfred Watkins would no doubt be pleased to see that the Alfriston and District Association for the Promotion of Trade and Tourism have adopted two ley symbols as symbols of fair trading. They are the Long Man of Wilmington and the Alfriston Market Cross. In fact, the Long Man is holding the market cross in place of his left-hand staff!



Two good Moots

There have been two good Moots in recent months, which I have attended. The Ley Hunter Moot, in the beautiful Welsh village of Dinas Mawddwy, was excellent, with a wide variety of speakers on subjects as diverse as the pineal gland and psychic sensitivity, the Celts and King Arthur, the Gaia hypothesis, a ley in Germany and lost lands. The Sunday trip was enjoyable too, visiting stone circles of dates varying from prehistory to the early twentieth century! The Northern Moot in Nottingham was also thought-provoking, with an excellent talk on sound and its relevance to Earth Mysteries, as well as talks on local sites. Both these deserve more space than I have in this issue, so a fuller account of both will be given in the next.

Up, up and away...again!

In August, just before our holiday in Gloucestershire and Derbyshire, I had the pleasure of another balloon flight - especially so as it was over Surrey this time - once again organised as a present from Doris. It was a much larger balloon than before, with ten passengers on board. We took off from Milford, and flew roughly north-west over Godalming and some beautiful Surrey hill country, before landing at the beauty spot of Newlands Corner, near Guildford. I was especially pleased to fly directly over Chinthurst Hill tower, which I had visited on a field trip shortly before, and to pass close by St. Martha-on-the-Hill Church. Both these are on leys (two different ones) leading into the Woking Mosque ley centre, and I was able to take video from a high vantage point along each alignment. There seemed to be a straight field boundary pointing towards St. Martha's along the line. Just before landing, I obtained a beautiful view from the air of the field in which Squadron-Leader Shipwright saw his UFO in 1967. All this is on video and will be available to anyone sending me a blank tape and return postage. There is also an interesting video of a trip to Stanton Moor, including dowsing the Nine Ladies stone circle there, which will be available when edited.

The E-circle

I have recently plotted the E-line we have been following on the Pitch Hill Project as a great circle course going round the Earth, by the simple method of stretching a rubber band round a globe. Although it doesn't sound so, it is reasonably accurate; one must just make sure the southern and northern extremities are at the same latitude and longitude and the line is straight when viewed from immediately above. Three of the points the line apparently passes through are very significant; of course on this scale one cannot be sure of precise location, but the line certainly passes in the immediate areas of the places concerned. They are:

- 1) MOUNT EVEREST, on the Tibet/Nepal border, is the highest mountain in the world. Its Tibetan name, Chomolungma, means "goddess mother of the world".
- 2) AYERS ROCK, in central Australia, is a huge freestanding rock formation which appears to change colour as sunlight strikes it from different angles. The caves in its base are sacred to the Aborigines and contain traditional cave paintings. I did not know the location when first plotting the line, but have found that it almost certainly falls on it (it is north-west of Alice Springs).
- 3) LINES OF NAZCA, Peru. Patterns of straight lines and vast pictures created on the desert of this region, seemingly meant to be seen from above.

The line also goes right down the Indonesian Archipelago, so probably goes through some significant sites there, and goes across the southern part of South Island, New Zealand.

The Psi Cops.

There was an Equinox programme broadcast in September 1991 about the organisation CSICOP (the Council for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal). This revealed this organisation to be composed of people who considered themselves the guardians of scientific objectivity and who would seemingly go to any lengths to discredit people involved with the paranormal. The group was shown to have a very strong motivation to believe that no non-material reality can exist - the maxim I have come to call the Grand Paradigm - and defends it with quasi-religious fervour. It is extremely well organised and run almost like a military operation. The Grand Paradigm does, however, place scientists in a paradoxical situation - for if no non-material reality exists, then they themselves are nothing more than complex machines, a usually unacceptable thought.

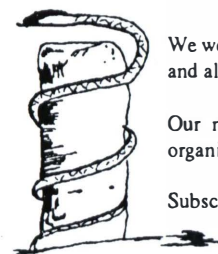
Einsteinism

The following account is by R.D. Pearson, BSc. (Eng), present at the second International Scientific Conference concerning Problems in Time and Space:

A total of 120 scientists and engineers...raised a major issue over and over again. It concerned Einstein's theories of relativity. Paper after paper highlighted internal contradictions to an extent representing complete overkill. Only one participant supported Einstein, the rest were unanimous in rejection. Nearly everybody had met with the same brick wall. All submissions describing alternative theories free from contradiction had been rejected by assessors. Nor had it been possible to communicate any deficiency in Einstein's theories! An astronomer of Pulkovo Observatory, Svetlana Tolchel'nikova, spoke about reported observations of the planet Venus. She analysed two publications which appeared superficially to support Einstein's relativity by showing good agreement with observation. On closer look, however, several + signs had been substituted for - signs in the equations and vice-versa. When these errors were corrected the good agreement vanished! The implication was that the authors, knowing that lack of support for Einstein would result in rejection of their papers, had felt forced to deliberately rig the equations. The peer review system was blamed for this sad state of affairs. It had been initiated to ensure the highest standards of excellence. Unfortunately students of physics have been taught to accept Einstein's relativity even though they could not be expected to understand it. This changed the nature of physics more to that of a religion. Pro-Einstein assessors multiplied and subsequently rejected all alternatives with religious fervour.

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THE HIDDEN UNITY

and

BEGINNINGS

These two booklets have recently been brought out by the Surrey Earth Mysteries Group.

The Hidden Unity looks at the strange phenomenon of subconscious siting of ley points, and notes that places of worship, of all religions and all ages, tend to predominate on leys. The environmental and philosophical implications of this are discussed, and the apparent necessity of worship but irrelevance of doctrine. Two ley centres are given as examples, and investigated in depth - the Shah Jehan Mosque in Woking and the Guru Nanak Sikh Temple, Scunthorpe. There is an appendix by Eileen Grimshaw on the significance of the Pagan religion to this study. Illustrated with photographs, maps and line drawings.

Beginnings is about a series of potentially useful discoveries, mainly made by Jimmy Goddard over a period of about twenty years, but having some overlap with discoveries made by others. For various reasons, the investigations are all in their early stages, and some have not been continued. They include earth energy detection, natural antigravity, subconscious siting, ley width, and the solar transition effect. There is also a chapter on cognitive dissonance - a psychological factor which seems to have been at the root of all bigotry - scientific, religious and other - down the ages. The booklet is concluded with an account of the discovery of leys by Alfred Watkins.

Each booklet is £1 plus 30p p&p from the Touchstone address.

EXCHANGE LIST

FORTEAN TIMES, 96, Mansfield Road, London NW3. 2HX. NORTHERN EARTH MYSTERIES, 40b, Welby Place, Meersbrook Park, Sheffield, S8. 9DB. FOLKLORE FRONTIERS, 5, Egton Drive, Seaton Carew, Hartlepool, Cleveland, TS25. 2AT. THE LEY HUNTER, P.O. Box 5, Brecon, Powys, Wales. MAGONIA, John Dee Cottage, 5, James Terrace, Mortlake Churchyard, London, S.W.14. 8HB. GLOUCESTERSHIRE EARTH MYSTERIES, 49, Moorend Road, Leckhampton, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL53. 0ET. MEYN MAMVRO, 51, Cam Bosavern, St. Just, Penzance, Cornwall, TR19. 7QX. TERRESTRIAL ZODIACS JOURNAL, 170, Victoria Avenue, Hull, HU5. 3DY. LONDON EARTH MYSTERIES, 18, Christchurch Avenue, Brondesbury, London, NW6. 7QN. MARKSTONE, The Chimes, 17, St. Andrews Street, Kirton-in-Lindsey, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire. Our thanks to all exchange publications, especially those who have mentioned us.

TOUCHSTONE is published by Surrey Earth Mysteries Group, 25, Albert Road, Addlestone, Surrey, KT15. 2PX. Sub TWO POUNDS for four issues, please make cheques payable to J. Goddard. All articles are welcome and all are welcome at our monthly meetings in Addlestone. IF YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS DUE AN "X" WILL FOLLOW THIS SENTENCE: